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THE WASHINGTON POST  
10 December 1980

## *Haig Once Again Key Candidate to Head State Dept.*

By Robert G. Kaiser  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. is once again a leading candidate for the post of secretary of state in the Reagan administration, well-placed sources said yesterday, suggesting anew that the search for a Reagan Cabinet is something of a political roller-coaster ride.

At the end of last week the same knowledgeable sources were talking as though Haig's fortunes were fading fast after Republican leaders in the Senate warned that a messy confirmation fight was possible if Ronald Reagan did nominate the former chief of staff in Richard Nixon's White House.

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One factor that helped revive Haig's prospects, sources in the transition team said yesterday, was the paucity of alternatives to him. "Look at the choices," one transition official said after predicting that "Haig is going to get it."

Alternatives mentioned by sources close to Reagan last Friday were

George P. Shultz, Caspar W. Weinberger and William J. Casey. Shultz is hotly opposed by many conservatives, Weinberger is in line to be secretary of defense and Casey is set to become director of the Central Intelligence Agency. None of the three has extensive experience in foreign affairs.

EXCERPT